



# Alley Study

Public Works Department

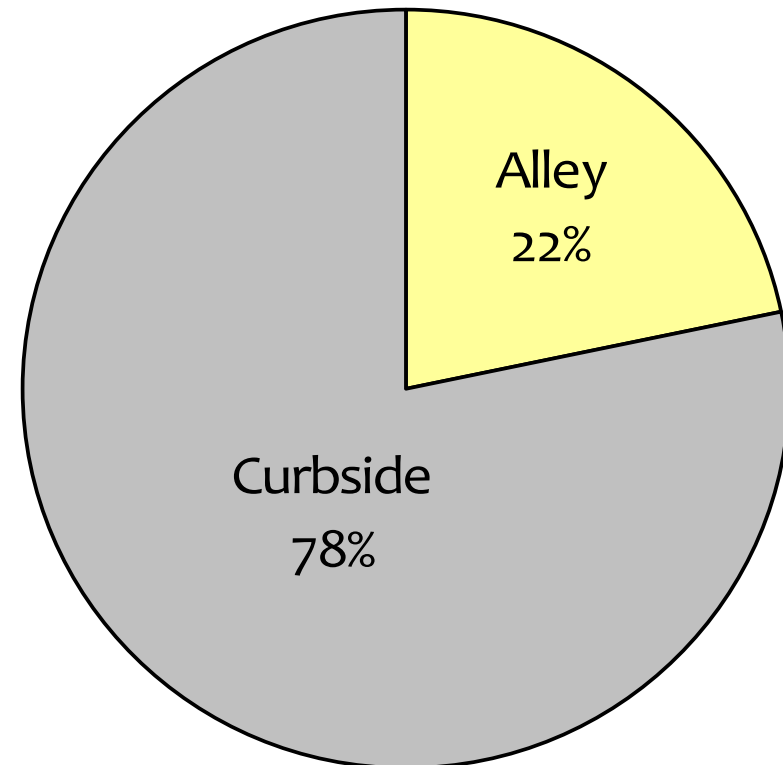
Housing and Neighborhoods Subcommittee

March 9, 2011

# Alley Garbage Service Data

- **390,000** residential households serviced
- **84,000** residences receive alley garbage service
  - 2,900 receive recycling service
- **914** miles of alleys in Phoenix
- **676** miles of alleys with solid waste service
- **238** miles of alleys converted to curbside

Total Customers



# Alley Relocation Practice

- The department currently has an informal process for voluntary and involuntary solid waste relocation.
- A formal process is being developed and will be presented to Council for feedback.

# Alley Service Challenges

- Truck routing complexities
- Illegal dumping
- Equipment damage
- Private property damage
- Alley maintenance
- Environmental compliance
- Neighbor disputes

# Low electrical power lines



# Overgrown Vegetation



# Illegal Dumping



# Bulk Trash



# Bulk Trash in Alley



# Equipment Damage



# Property Damage



# Alley Maintenance



# Environmental Implications



# Other Cities

City	Status of Alley Collection
Dallas, TX	All five service districts with alley service were converted to curbside by March 1, 2010.
Mesa, AZ	Relocated all alley collection to curbside by 2006.
San Antonio, TX	The department relocates alley service to curbside based on requests from residents and danger posed by alley way
Tempe, AZ	Conducting cost analysis on alley relocation to curbside.
Tolleson, AZ	Closed 43 alleys and installed bollards and padlocks.
Tucson, AZ	The department relocates alley service to curbside based on requests from residents and danger posed by alley way

# Annual Alley Service Costs

Alley maintenance	\$439,000
300 gal. containers	\$860,000
Education & Enforcement	\$1.86 million
Equipment & Property Damage	\$120,000
Special Equipment	\$168,000
Operational costs	\$1.475 million

A recent time study showed a solid waste operator can collect **161** households curbside versus **122** households in alleys in **ONE** hour.

# Annual Alley Service Costs

Cost per Residence per Year

	Residences	Total Costs
Alley	84,355 (22%)	\$150
Curbside	305,953 (78%)	\$91
	Difference	<b>(\$59)</b>

# Alley to Curbside Savings

<b>Potential Savings of Alley Relocation</b>	
First Year	(\$405,951)
Second Year	\$138,645
Third Year	\$683,241
Fourth Year	\$1,227,837
Fifth Year	\$1,772,432
Sixth Year	\$2,891,088
Seventh Year	\$2,891,088
Eighth Year	\$2,891,088
Ninth Year	\$2,891,088
Tenth Year	\$2,891,088
<b>Savings over ten years= \$17,871,644</b>	

# Post Relocation Options

- Limit vehicular access by installing structures
- Repurpose alley for other uses
- Alley abandonment through existing Planning/DSD process

# Structures to Limit Vehicular Access



# Repurpose alley for other uses



# Public Concerns

## Access

- **How will homeowners access garages/backyards?**
  - Public Works is not recommending closing alleys. Staff recommends relocating solid waste services from alleys to curbside.
  - Alleys will continue to remain accessible to residents, utility companies and public safety officials.
  - Residents may request to limit vehicle access and install barriers, such as gates and bollards.

# Public Concerns

## Cost

- **Why is the cost associated with alley service higher than curbside?**
  - Maintenance costs associated with alley collection are significantly higher than curbside collection.
  - The average annual cost per residence of a 300-gallon alley container is **\$15.26** versus **\$5.06** for a 90-gallon curbside container.
  - Curbside routes average 47.51 pounds of garbage per residence, alley routes generate 60.10 pounds. Truck hoppers fill up faster with garbage from 300-gallon containers, resulting in additional mileage needed to travel to transfer stations.

# Public Concerns

## Illegal Dumping

- **How will relocation reduce illegal dumping?**
  - There is very little illegal dumping cases with curbside containers.
  - It is easier to identify offenders with single containers.
  - There is limited accountability with alley containers and it is challenging to identify illegal dumpers.

# Public Concerns

## Safety

- **Will crime increase once service is relocated?**
  - Residents may request deterrents such as gates and bollards to limit vehicle access.
  - There is no quantifiable measure that shows crime will either increase or decrease with the relocation of solid waste services.

# Options

1. Continue the current Public Works practice of relocating alley collection to curbside only when requested by a neighborhood or if it presents operational or safety concerns.
2. Implement a phased approach to relocate remaining alley service to curbside over 20 years.
3. Keep alley and curbside service the same and evaluate a variable monthly rate for alley or curbside service.
4. Identify alley candidates for relocation and establish a formal neighborhood petition process to consider relocating alley collection to curbside. The petition process could be patterned after the Traffic Calming Program.

The background image shows a narrow alleyway paved with concrete. On the left, there are several small, simple structures, possibly sheds or small houses, with a black trash bin in front of one. On the right, there is a tall utility pole with several directional signs. A chain-link fence runs along the right side of the alley. The overall scene is somewhat desolate and appears to be in an urban or industrial area.

Housing and Neighborhoods Subcommittee

# Alley Study

Public Works Department

Solid Waste